



Urban District Council of Northwich.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

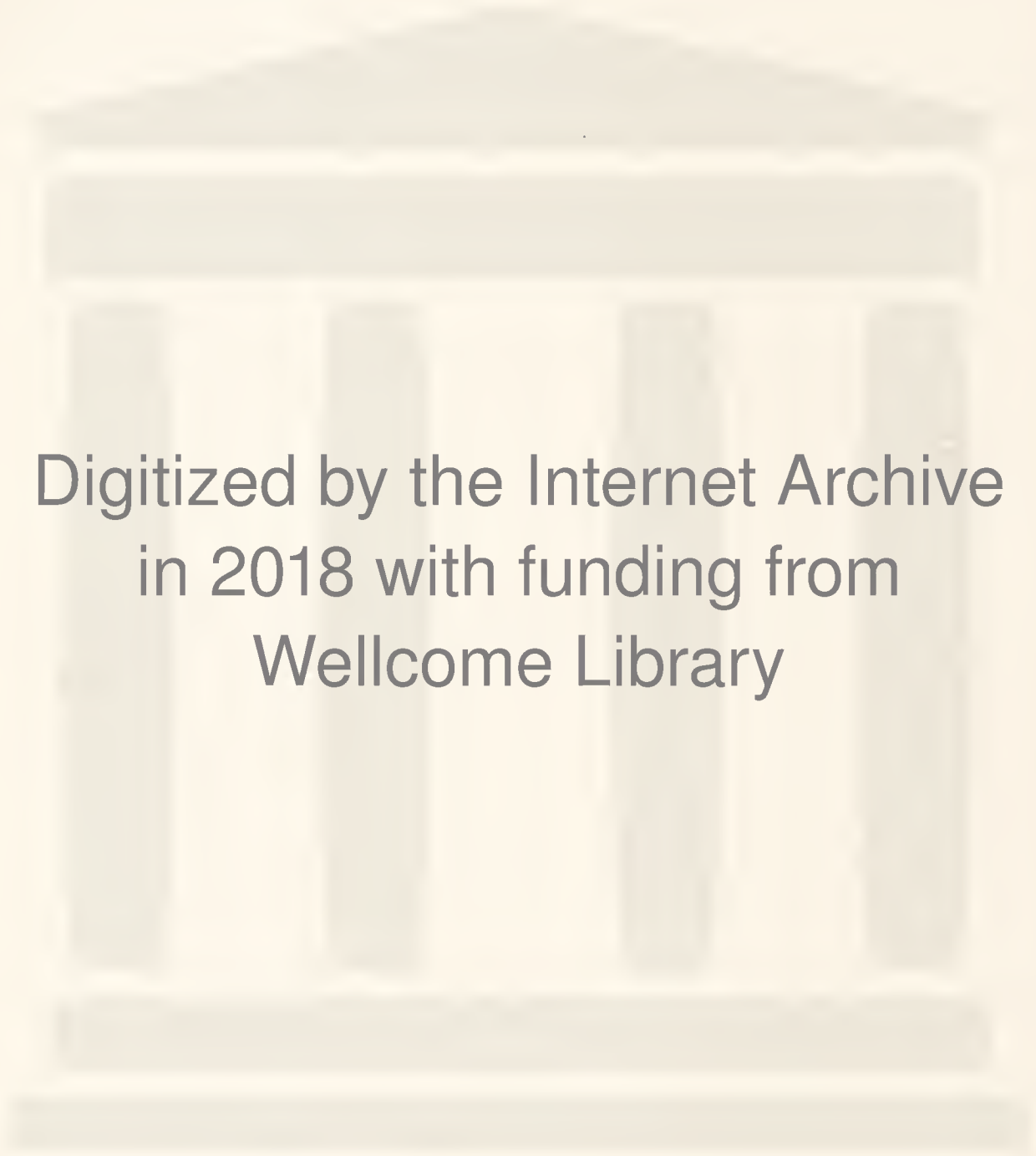
AND

Vital Statistics, &c.,

For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1905.

NORTHWICH :

W. Hobson & Son, Printers and Stationers.



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NORTHWICH URBAN DISTRICT.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1905.

Population at Census, 1901	..	..	..	..	..	..	17,608
„ Estimated to middle of 1905	..	..	..	..	..	..	18,750
Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,758
Birth Rate per 1,000 living	..	..	..	..	..	..	27·6
Death „ „ „ „	..	..	..	..	..	..	13·0
„ „ from seven principal Zymotic Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	2·6
Deaths under 1 year, to 1,000 Births	..	..	..	..	..	..	115

The Urban District and Township of Northwich now includes what were formerly the parishes of Witton-cum-Twambrooks, Northwich, and Castle Northwich, and parts of the parishes of Hartford, Leftwich and Winnington, and its population estimated to the middle of 1905, is 18,750: an increase of 250 over the population of 1904. The excess of births over deaths is 250. The birth rate is more than double the death rate.

Births.—The total number of births registered is 519, 261 males and 258 females, the rate per 1,000 being 27·6 which is slightly less than that for the previous year, and less than the 10 years average by 5·7.

The number of illegitimate births is 22, 12 being males and 10 females, giving a rate of 1·17 per 1,000.

Supplementary Table I shows the numbers of each sex during each quarter and also the rate per 1,000.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered is 244, of which 16 occurred in the Union Workhouse and 7 in the Victoria Infirmary. The rate per 1,000 is 13, which is 1·5 less than last year and 4·8 less than the 10 years average.

Of these deaths 60 were infants under 1 year of age, and 58 were persons over 65 years of age.

Zymotic disease caused 26 of the deaths, enteritis 9, and septic diseases 5; phthisis was responsible for 8, and other tubercular diseases 13, diseases of the lungs 33, cancer 9, alcoholism 3, premature birth 5, heart diseases 22, and old age also 22, there were 7 deaths due to accidents.

In addition to the deaths enumerated, 20 more occurred within our public institutions of persons who belonged to other districts, and they have been returned to their own districts, and 6 persons who belonged to this district and are included in the returns, died in public institutions in other districts.

There were 2 uncertified deaths.

Inquests were held upon 18 cases, 4 being from drowning, 4 falls from scaffolding, &c., 1 accidental poisoning and the remainder from natural causes.

Illegitimacy.—Only 3 deaths were of illegitimate children and one of these was due to malformation at birth, the mother being described as a domestic servant—a male child. The other two were females and the mothers were described as being of no occupation, one died at 1 year of age from congenital syphilis, and the other at 9 months of age from pneumonia.

Infantile Mortality.—The number of children who died before reaching one year of age was 60, a decrease of 25 upon last year, and of 48 upon the 10 years average.

The rate per 1,000 births is 115, the lowest of any year since 1894 if not longer; still it means that practically one-quarter of the people who die are children under 1 year.

None of them died from any of the zymotic diseases excepting diarrhoea, from which 18 children died.

From premature birth and congenital defects 9 children died, of which 5 died of Marasmus or “wasting.” Seven died from tubercular diseases, and 10 from diseases of the lungs, the remainder being from various other causes.

Of the 60 deaths, 14 occurred before the infants reached one month, and 10 during the second month of life.

Zymotic Diseases.—The total number of infectious cases notified was 141; 36 being diphtheria, 19 erysipelas, 78 scarlet fever, 5 enteric fever, and 3 puerperal fever.

Of these 15 were removed to Hospital, 5 being diphtheria, 5 scarlet fever, and 5 enteric fever.

Seven were treated in the Wade Brook Hospital, and 8 in the new joint Hospital, at Leftwich, one of the latter proving fatal.

There were only 5 deaths from zymotic diseases, 4 being diphtheria or croup, this includes the case already mentioned as occurring in the Isolation Hospital, and one puerperal fever.

The cases of scarlet fever were mostly of an extremely mild nature, not a single death occurring amongst the whole of the 78 cases notified.

The diphtheria was also wide-spread and not any particular connection between cases could be traced: 3 cases occurred in one family, one being dead when the notifications were received, the other 2 were removed to Hospital and one of these also died.

Considerably more use has been made of the facility for securing an aid to diagnosis in doubtful cases by sending pathological specimens to Professor Delephine for bacteriological examination: 24 reports being received upon cases which were notified, in six of which the bacteriological evidence was negative.

Eleven other negative reports were received of cases which were not notified.

Isolation Hospital.—Up to the 1st of October the old buildings at Wade Brook were in use, and seven cases were treated there during the time it was open, 4 being enteric fever, and 3 diphtheria; they all recovered.

Since the 1st day of October, the new Joint Hospital at Leftwich has been used, 8 cases having been removed there; these consisted of 5 cases of scarlet fever, 2 of diphtheria, and 1 typhoid fever. Seven of these were either cured or convalescent at the end of the year, and one case of diphtheria died.

Factories and Workshops.—Systematic and regular inspection of these has been carried out during the year, and there are now 172 on the register.

A considerable amount of sanitary improvement has been executed in these during the year, the full details of which are particularised in the Inspector's report which is appended.

The numbers of each are as follows:—16 factories, 16 bakehouses, 22 dressmakers, 11 tailors, 19 bootmakers, 10 confectioners, 11 plumbers, 11 joiners, 9 milliners; the remainder being composed of blacksmiths, saddlers, jewellers, stonecutters, cabinet-makers, &c., &c.

Private Streets Works.—There is a large batch of these now being proceeded with under the Act of 1892.

The objections of owners coming before the magistrates at an early date.

The streets to be made are—Sydney street, Parliament street, Gladstone street, Park street, Pleasant street, Zion street, Chapel street (part of), Beeston street, David street, Ryder street, St. James street, Weaver road, Dock road, Limekiln lane, Back passage between Oak street and Ash street, Cross street between Greenall road and Victoria road, James street (part of).

That this will be an improvement is self-evident. Some of these streets notably Parliament street, Gladstone street and Dock road are almost impassable at times of rain, and as houses open directly upon these with a very small step up from the street level they are particularly in need of repair, some of the others are also in a very bad state, and these sodden cinder roads are fruitful sources of ill-health.

Water Supply.—This is of excellent quality from Cote Brook, but it is getting rather limited in its quantity, the reservoir being low and necessitating the night service being cut-off at the wettest season of the year. To meet the increased demand a Committee has been appointed to consider the advisability of sinking a new bore-hole at the Cote Brook Water Works.

Sewerage Works.—The Castle sewerage scheme continues to work satisfactorily and most of the property has now been joined up to it.

The low-lying part of the town on the N.E. side of the river is in a bad state as regards drainage, the subsidence causing the sewers to be waterlogged when the river is at all high. The County Council have agreed to an arrangement by which some scheme for the better sewerage of the town, and the improvement of the river Weaver, which is polluted by the present system, shall be in course of operation in two years.

Housing of the Working Classes.—In this district there are many houses which are not of a very high standard of habitability owing largely to subsidence which causes rapid dilapidation and deterioration; there still remain many two-roomed houses in the district, and many others have no enclosed yard of any kind.

There is here as elsewhere a large opening for good cottages with open spaces or gardens near them to supply the essentials of sunshine and fresh air to the inhabitants.

The general work of the Authority which has been carried out during the year is admirably set forth in the report of the Inspector, which is appended.

HENRY EDWARD GOUGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 27th, 1906.

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TABLE I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		* DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents reg- istered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births regis- tered.	Number	Rate.*				Number	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1895	17,400	697	40'0	138	198	385	22'1	39	14	...	371	21'3
1896	17,800	685	38'1	117	170	327	18'2	32	15	2	314	17'6
1897	18,100	718	39'1	133	182	368	20'2	29	14	...	354	19'5
1898	18,300	650	35'5	124	187	380	20'2	49	22	1	359	19'6
1899	18,500	531	28'6	115	214	372	20'1	45	16	1	357	19'2
1900	18,820	593	31'5	92	155	308	16'3	35	11	1	298	15'8
1901	17,681	560	31'6	128	228	387	21'8	45	34	11	364	20'5
1902	17,950	546	30'4	71	130	270	15'0	42	15	...	285	15'8
1903	18,220	548	30'0	82	149	293	16'1	29	18	1	276	15'1
1904	18,500	522	28'2	85	162	283	15'2	26	16	3	270	14'5
Averages for years 1895-1905.	18,127	605	33'3	108	177	337	18'5	37	17	...	324	17'8
1905	18,750	519	27'6	60	115	253	13'4	41	15	6	244	13.0

*Rates in columns 4, 8 and 13, calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 1,758.

Total population at all ages, 17,608.

Number of inhabited houses, 3,565.

Average number of persons per house, 4'9.

} At Census
of
1901.

Institutions within the District receiving
sick and infirm persons from
outside the District

} Victoria Infirmary, Northwich.
Union Workhouse, Northwich.

Institutions outside the District receiving
sick and infirm persons from
the District

} Royal Infirmary, Manchester.
The Chester County Asylum.
The Rural District Council's
Infectious Hospital at Mar-
bury.

TABLE III.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1905.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT. H.W.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.						NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.						
	AT AGES—YEARS.						1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	At all Ages	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.													
Small-pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	36	1	6	19	4	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Membranous croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	19	...	2	...	1	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever.....	78	1	13	57	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	5	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	3	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	141	2	21	76	16	23	3	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).						DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	URBAN DISTRICT.	WORKHOUSE.	INFIRMARY.				
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup	3	..	1	2	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteric .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Other continued .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza	6	..	..	..	1	4	1	6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa.....	15	12	2	1	..	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	9	6	2	..	..	1	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other septic diseases.....	5	1	..	1	..	3	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	1
Phthisis	8	..	..	..	2	6	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	4
Other tubercular diseases..	13	7	3	2	..	1	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease.	9	..	..	..	..	5	4	7	1	1	..	..	..	2
Bronchitis	15	3	..	..	..	5	7	13	2	..	..	..	..	2
Pneumonia	18	7	3	..	1	7	..	17	1	..	..	..	..	1
Pleurisy .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other diseases of respira- tory organs .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of liver	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	1
Venereal diseases	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth.....	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and accidents of Parturition	5	..	..	..	2	3	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart diseases	22	1	..	1	2	11	7	22	..	..	..	..	..	1
Accidents	7	..	1	1	3	2	..	5	..	2	..	..	..	5
Suicides .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Old Age	22	..	..	..	..	..	22	16	6	..	..	..	..	7
Convulsions	6	4	1	..	..	..	1	5	..	1	..	..	..	1
Marasmus	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other causes	66	10	3	3	8	26	16	62	2	2	..	..	..	16
All causes	244	60	18	11	19	78	58	221	16	7	..	..	..	41

TABLE V.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1905.
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
ALL CAUSES :																	
Certified .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uncertified .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Common Infectious Diseases :																	
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria : Croup..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoeal Diseases :																	
Diarrhoea, all forms..	..	I	..	..	I	I	..	I	..	I	I	2	..	..	I	I	9
Enteritis (not Tuberculous) }	..	..	I	..	I	..	..	I	2	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	5
Gastritis, Gastro- intestinal Catarrh }	..	..	..	I	I	..	..	..	..	..	I	I	..	I	..	..	4
Wasting Diseases :																	
Premature Birth	3	..	..	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Congenital Defects ..	2	I	..	..	3	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Injury at Birth .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Want of Breast-milk ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atrophy, Debility,) Marasmus .....	..	..	..	..	..	3	I	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	5
Tuberculous Diseases :																	
Tuberculous Meningitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	I
Tuberculous Peri- tonitis : Tabes Mesenterica ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	..	..	..	I	I	I	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	I
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	2
Convulsions	I	..	..	..	I	I	..	..	..	..	I	..	I	..	..	..	4
Bronchitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	3
Laryngitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia .....	..	..	I	..	I	..	..	I	..	I	I	..	I	2	..	..	7
Suffocation, over- laying .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes	I	..	I	..	2	..	..	I	..	I	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
	7	2	3	2	14	10	3	5	5	3	5	4	4	3	I	3	60

District of Northwich Urban.

Births in the year	{ legitimate—497.	Population Estimated to middle of 1905—18,750.
	{ illegitimate—22.	
Deaths from all Causes at all Ages—244.		

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE I.—BIRTHS, 1905.

	Males.	Females.	Totals for Quarters.	Rate per Thousand.	No. of Illegitimate Births.
1st Quarter	70	58	128	27·0	4—2 M., 2 F.
2nd „	77	74	151	32·2	6—4 M., 2 F.
3rd „	59	69	128	27·0	6—2 M., 4 F.
4th „	55	57	112	23·8	6—4 M., 2 F.
For whole year	261	258	519	27·6	22—12 M., 10 F.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE II.—DEATHS, 1905.

		Urban District.	Work-house.	Infirmary.	Isolation Hospital.	Totals for Year.	Rate per 1000.
1st Quarter	...	56	7	2	...	65	13·8
2nd „	...	52	6	1	...	59	12·5
3rd „	...	56	1	2	...	59	12·5
4th „	...	57	2	2	...	61	13·0
For whole year	..	221	16	7	...	244	13·0

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries).	..	..	..
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries).	172	..	..
Workplaces .. .. .	..	..	..
Homeworkers' Premises .. .. .	..	..	..
Total	172	..	..

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :*</i>				
Want of cleanliness .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Want of ventilation	2	2	..	..
Overcrowding	1	1	..	..
Want of drainage of floors .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other nuisances	33	33	..	..
†Sanitary Accommodations {	insufficient .. .. .	..	..	..
	unsuitable or defective ..	..	..	..
	not separate for sexes ..	..	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (S. 101) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100). ..	..	..	..	..
Failure as regard lists of outworkers (S. 107)	..	..	..	..
Giving out work to { unwholesome (S. 108)	..	..	..	..
be done in premises { infected (S. 110) ..	..	..	..	..
which are				
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by scarlet fever or smallpox (S. 109) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other offences .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Total	36	36	..	..

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

†For districts not in London state here whether Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by the District Council; and if so, what standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops has been enforced.

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Class.										Number.	
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :											
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshops Act (S. 133)	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (S. 5) {										Notified by H.M. Inspector ..	
										Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors.. ..	
Other .. .. .										....
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :											
In use during 1903 .. .. .										....
Certificates granted {										in 1904	
										in 1905	
In use at the end of 1904 .. .. .										....
										Number of	
Homework :										Lists.	Out-workers.
List of Outworkers* (S. 107) :											
Lists received .. .. .										..	..
Addresses of Outworkers {										forwarded to other Authorities ..	
										received from other Authorities ..	
Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :										Wearing Apparel.	Other.
Notices prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (S.108)											
Cases of Infectious disease notified in homeworkers' premises..										..	..
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (S. 110) ..										..	..
Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of 1905 :										172	
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here. {											
Total number of workshops on Register										172	

* The Lists should be received twice in the year. The year's figures required in the Table are then obtained by adding together the two half-yearly totals.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,

NORTHWICH DISTRICT COUNCIL,

9th January, 1906.

ANNUAL REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Report for the year 1905, I am sorry I cannot offer a clean bill of health, there being a few cases of infectious disease on the books, these however, are of a very mild type, and may soon die out.

The first quarter of the year was fairly free from notifiable infectious disease, but the second quarter brought in a slight epidemic of scarlatina. This came in a very mild form, many cases being doubtful. The last quarter brought in a number of cases of diphtheria, this also has come in a very mild form. Many of the cases not standing the test of Professor Delepine. There were no two outbreaks in the same neighbourhood, nor was there any trace of any connection one with another.

The scavengers still continue to maintain the high standard that they have held for the past few years. Each contractor taking greater interest in his work, and doing all he can to improve his district. During the past year they have removed 4,228 loads of dry ashes, and 2,900 loads of excreta. The last-named being removed outside the Council's district, and made into manure and used by the farmer for the land. Disinfectants are largely used by the men, and one of the rules is, that no cart must go out without a supply, either for night-soil or ashes. I am glad to say here that many of the property owners are of their own free will fixing water carriage systems in lieu of the old privies and cesspools. This is an improvement that must be felt in a few years by the reduction of scavenging, and should be encouraged by the Council as much as possible.

The scavengers have received 135 notices for the removal of house refuse during the year. The following figures will show the improvement that has taken place during the past six years in this department: In 1900—600 notices were served; 1901—660; 1902—466; 1903—387; 1904—261; and 1905—135.

I have supplied 170 sanitary pails from the Council's stores. These have gone to replace old and leaky ones, and taken the place of old cesspools that have become a nuisance, the cesspool being filled up, or reconstructed as an ashpit and covered in with brick and slate.

Twenty-seven legal notices have been served on property owners to abate nuisances and execute repairs. They have each been complied with and the work carried out. This again shows a large decrease in official notices. Property owners having more readily complied with the request of the Medical Officer and the Sanitary Inspector, without having to resort to the formal notice.

Thirty-five letters have been written, asking for the reconstruction of defective and insanitary property. These have been carried out to the Council's satisfaction.

Thirty-eight cesspools have been converted into the pail system, and the defective cesspools filled up. The ashpits in connection with these premises being repaired, and mostly covered in with brick and slate.

Thirty-three cesspools have been converted into the water carriage system. The cesspools being reconstructed as ashpits and covered in with brick and slate. This does not include new houses that have been built with the water carriage attached. There has also been a number of baths fixed to houses during the year that I have not the record of. This shows that the town is slowly going in for a better system of sanitation than formerly, and one that will greatly improve the health of the inhabitants.

Seven new closets have been constructed on the pail system, these take the place of old privies, where there was only one privy to two houses.

Fifteen cesspools have been reconstructed and covered, with ashpits connected. These are not tabulated, the work being carried out by the advice of the Medical Officer and Inspector.

Forty-eight lengths of house drains have been lifted, cleaned and re-laid. Twenty-two of these had gullies and ventilators fixed to each.

Eleven cases of filthy premises have been dealt with. This is a slight decrease on the number of previous years. Two of these we had before the magistrates, another case was withdrawn on account of other proceedings pending against them.

Overcrowding is also on the decrease, as I have only reported nine houses, none of these had we to take action against, as the first verbal instructions was complied with.

Eight new washhouses have been built in connection with small cottage property. This is a great boon to those people who have to do all their washing in their living room. This class of improvement should be encouraged as much as possible.

Six manure heaps have been removed that had become a nuisance and dangerous to the neighbourhood where they existed.

Four times was black smoke reported, and the defaulter written to by order of the Council. Legal notices had to be served before the Council's request was complied with.

Nineteen new houses have been built during the year, with the water carriage and covered-in ashpits attached.

Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops have been visited at different times during the year. Lime washing was ordered in six, twice in cowsheds and four times in milk shops.

There are 18 slaughter houses in the Council's district, these have been visited periodically during the year. Five were ordered to be lime-washed and otherwise cleaned. Two called upon to remove the offal, and three to find utensils for the reception of the offal.

There are seven common lodging houses in the Council's district, these have been visited at different times, one was reported for filthy bedding, another had to be lime-washed and disinfected.

There are no Canal Boats plying on that part of the river which passes through the Council's district, except those under the Merchants' Shipping Act, and these do not come under my jurisdiction.

There are 172 Factories and Workshops on the register. These have been visited several times during the year. Seventeen had to be lime-washed, two had new ventilators fixed, fourteen had their drains taken up and re-laid, and several had new traps fixed on the drains. Two sewing factories had to be disinfected after infectious disease, one had new flushing cisterns fixed to the closets. This work has all been carried out by verbal request only.

I have received 141 notifications of infectious disease, as follows: Scarlatina 78, diphtheria 36, erysipelas 19, typhoid 5, and puerperal 3. Seven of these have been successfully treated in the Wade Brook Hospital, at a total cost of £100 18s. 3½d. Eight cases have been removed to the Hospital at Leftwich, one proving fatal.

This is the heaviest record of infectious disease since 1897, in that year 166 notifications were received.

CHAS. POTTS,
Sanitary Inspector.